

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET'S MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUN YAT-SEN'S DEATH

1. SUMMARY. IN A COMMENTARY ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SUN YAT-SEN, A SOVIET COMMENTATOR HAS STRESSED SUN'S SUPPORT FOR AND BY RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARIES AND DRAWN A CONTRAST BETWEEN THAT CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP AND CURRENT COOL SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IZVESTIYA (MARCH 11) CARRIES AN ARTICLE CALLED "A LEADING REVOLUTIONARY-DEMOCRAT," BY S. TIKHVINSKIY, AN EXPERIENCED OLD CHINA HAND SEEN MOST RECENTLY ON THE FEBRUARY 5 TELEVISION DISCUSSION OF THE PRC (MOSCOW 1771).

3. THE ARTICLE RELATES SEVERAL POINTS IN SUN'S PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LIFE, STRESSING THE CLOSE RAPPORT HE ESTABLISHED WITH RUSSIAN REVOLUTINARIES INCLUDING LENIN,
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AND NOTING THE CONTRIBUTION TO SUN'S MOVEMENT BY SOVIET

MILITARY AND POLITICAL ADVISORS PAVLOV, BLUKHER AND BORODIN. IT NOTES THAT AFTER THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION THE NEW SOVIET GOVERNMENT RENOUNCED ALL SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN CHINA, AND CITES TWO STATEMENTS BY SUN IN 1924 APPROVING MOSCOW'S RENUNCIATION OF "UNEQUAL TREATIES." TIKHVINSKIY NOTES SUN'S EFFORTS TO WORK WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND BERATE THE "RIGHTIST" CLIQUE OF THE KMT LED BY CHIANG KAI-SHEK FOR ALLEGEDLY LEADING THE MOVEMENT AWAY FROM SUN'S GOALS. THE ARTICLE THEN QUOTES REMARKS BY MADAME SUN (SOONG CHING-LING) IN 1949 ON THE NEED FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED PRC AND THE USSR. TIKHVINSKIY CLOSES BY ASSERTING THAT IT WAS NOT THE SOVIETS' FAULT THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP ONLY LASTED ONE DECADE; THE SOVIET PEOPLE REGARD SUN AS A FRIEND AND BELIEVE IN HIS IDEALS.

4. COMMENT. BY USING SUN'S WORDS TO PLAY UP MOSCOW'S RENUNCIATION OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND UNEQUAL TREATIES, THE ARTICLE UNDERLINES PURPORTED SOVIET GENEROSITY AND THE ADVANTAGES TO CHINA OF CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS. IT THUS IMPLIES THAT FURTHER CHINESE DEMANDS ARE UNREASONABLE AND HIGHLIGHTS THE POOR STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE PRESENT CHINESE REGIME AND PARTY. THE TIMING AND TOPIC OF THIS COMMENTARY, COMING SO SOON AFTER MADAM CHIANG'S ARTICLES TREATING THE SOVIET GENTLY (TAIPEI 1160), COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A SOVIET RESPONSE IN KIND, BUT THERE IS NO INTERNAL EVIDENCE IN THE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE TO SUPPORT SUCH AN ASSUMPTION AND OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT THE TWO ITEMS ARE UNRELATED.

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